

UNITED STATES *v.* DARBY.

APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA.

No. 82. Argued December 19, 20, 1940.—Decided February 3, 1941.

1. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 provides for fixing minimum wages and maximum hours for employees engaged in the production of goods for interstate commerce, with increased compensation for overtime, and forbids, under pain of fine and imprisonment: (1) violation by an employer of such wage and hour provisions; (2) shipment by him in interstate commerce of any goods in the production of which any employee was employed in violation of such provisions; and (3) failure of the employer to keep such records of his employees and of their wages and hours, as shall be prescribed by administrative regulation or order. *Held* within the commerce power and consistent with the Fifth and Tenth Amendments. P. 111.
2. While manufacture is not of itself interstate commerce, the shipment of manufactured goods interstate is such commerce and the prohibition of such shipment by Congress is a regulation of interstate commerce. P. 113.
3. Congress, following its own conception of public policy concerning the restrictions which may appropriately be imposed on interstate commerce, is free to exclude from it articles whose use in the State for which they are destined it may conceive to be injurious to the public health, morals or welfare, even though the State has not sought to regulate their use. P. 114.
4. Such regulation is not a forbidden invasion of state power merely because either its motive or its consequence is to restrict the use of articles of commerce within the States of destination; and is valid unless prohibited by other Constitutional provisions. P. 114.
5. The motive and purpose of the present regulation are plainly to make effective the Congressional conception of public policy that interstate commerce should not be made the instrument of competition in the distribution of goods produced under substandard labor conditions, which competition is injurious to the commerce and to the States from and to which it flows. P. 115.
6. The motive and purpose of a regulation of interstate commerce are matters for the legislative judgment upon the exercise of which the Constitution places no restriction and over which the courts are given no control. P. 115.

7. In prohibiting interstate shipment of goods produced under the forbidden substandard labor conditions the Act is within the authority of Congress, if no Constitutional provision forbids. P. 115.
  8. *Hammer v. Dagenhart*, 247 U. S. 251, overruled; *Carter v. Carter Coal Co.*, 298 U. S. 238, declared to have been limited. Pp. 115, 123.
  9. The "production for interstate commerce" intended by the Act includes, at least, production of goods, which, at the time of production, the employer, according to the normal course of his business, intends or expects to move in interstate commerce although, through the exigencies of the business, all of the goods may not thereafter actually enter interstate commerce. P. 117.
  10. The power of Congress over interstate commerce extends to those intrastate activities which so affect interstate commerce or the exercise of the power of Congress over it as to make their regulation an appropriate means to the attainment of a legitimate end,—the exercise of the granted power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce. P. 118.
  11. Congress, having by the present Act adopted the policy of excluding from interstate commerce all goods produced for that commerce which do not conform to the specified labor standards, it may choose the means reasonably adapted to the attainment of the permitted end, even though they involve control of intrastate activities. P. 121.
  12. Independently of the prohibition of shipment or transportation of the proscribed goods, the provision of the Act for the suppression of their production for interstate commerce is within the commerce power. P. 122.
  13. The Tenth Amendment is not a limitation upon the authority of the National Government to resort to all means for the exercise of a granted power which are appropriate and plainly adapted to the permitted end. P. 123.
  14. The requirements of the Act as to the keeping of records are valid as incidental to the wage and hour requirements. P. 124.
  15. The wage and hour provisions of the Act do not violate the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment. P. 125.
  16. In its criminal aspect, the Act is sufficiently definite to meet constitutional demands. P. 125.
- 32 F. Supp. 734, reversed.

APPEAL, under the Criminal Appeals Act, from a judgment quashing an indictment.

*Solicitor General Biddle*, with whom *Assistant Attorney General Arnold* and Messrs. *Robert L. Stern*, *Hugh B. Cox*, *Warner W. Gardner*, *J. Saxton Daniel*, *Gerard D. Reilly*, and *Irving J. Levy* were on the brief, for the United States.

No State, acting alone, could require labor standards substantially higher than those obtaining in other States whose producers and manufacturers competed in the interstate market. Employers with lower labor standards possess an unfair advantage in interstate competition, and only the national government can deal with the problem.

The congressional committees made specific findings which were embodied in the Act as the congressional judgment that low labor standards were detrimental to the health and efficiency of workers, caused the channels of interstate commerce to spread those labor conditions among the States, burdened interstate commerce, led to labor disputes obstructing that commerce, and constituted an unfair method of competition. These findings accord with facts of which this Court has already taken judicial notice, and are conclusive.

The incapacity of the individual States to remedy the serious evils resulting from long hours and low wages in interstate industry rests in part upon the commerce clause itself, which prevents the States from forbidding importation of goods produced under substandard conditions. *Baldwin v. Seelig*, 294 U. S. 511. And, even if a State could constitutionally protect its industries within its own borders, it could not safeguard them against the loss of their markets in other States. The commerce clause was designed to empower the national government to deal with such problems.

The phrase "interstate commerce" had at the time of the adoption of the Constitution a meaning equivalent to "the interrelated business transactions of the several

States." Lexicographers, economists, and authors used the term "commerce" to refer not only to the narrow concept of sale or exchange, but to include the entire moneyed economy, embracing production and manufacture as well as exchange.

The decisions of this Court, from the beginning, have recognized that the commerce clause gives Congress power to meet the economic problems of the Nation, whatever they may be. *Gibbons v. Ogden*, 9 Wheat. 1, 194-195. See also *Minnesota Rate Cases*, 230 U. S. 352, 398. Labor conditions, so far from being the concern of the individual States alone, can now adequately be regulated only by Congress. The commerce clause, in incapacitating the States, gives the requisite power to Congress.

Section 15 (a) (1) forbids the interstate shipment of goods produced under substandard labor conditions. The provision is on its face a regulation of interstate commerce, and therefore within the powers of Congress. *Mulford v. Smith*, 307 U. S. 38; *Electric Bond & Share Co. v. Commission*, 303 U. S. 419, 442; *Kentucky Whip & Collar Co. v. Illinois Central R. Co.*, 299 U. S. 334, 347.

It can no longer be asserted that the power of Congress to restrict or condition interstate commerce is limited to articles in themselves harmful or deleterious.

The suggestion that Congress cannot regulate interstate commerce for ends which do not concern commerce itself is also unavailing. The Act, intended to prevent unfair competition and the spread of harmful conditions in interstate commerce, has a goal which is commercial in the strictest sense. But, even if it were concerned simply with humanitarian ends, it would none the less be within the commerce power. That power is measured by what it regulates, not by what it affects.

*Hammer v. Dagenhart*, 247 U. S. 251, has been repudiated by subsequent decisions of this Court.

Section 15 (a) (2) is an appropriate means by which to keep the interstate channels free of goods produced under substandard conditions. Intrastate acts lie within the power of Congress when necessary effectively to control interstate transactions, and Congress need not wait until transportation commences in its effort to protect the flow of commerce. *Shreveport Case*, 234 U. S. 342.

Even if § 15 (a) (2) were entirely independent of § 15 (a) (1), it would constitute a valid control over unfair competition in interstate commerce.

The *Labor Board Cases* are controlling because Congress has found that § 15 (a) (2) will diminish the obstructions to interstate commerce which flow from labor disputes.

The *Schechter* case, 295 U. S. 495, applied only to local activities after interstate commerce had ended. The *Carter Coal* case, 298 U. S. 238, is wholly inconsistent with the subsequent decisions of this Court, in particular *Santa Cruz Fruit Packing Co. v. National Labor Relations Board*, 303 U. S. 453, and should now be overruled.

Sections 11 (c) and 15 (a) (5), requiring employers to keep records and forbidding them to make false reports, are ancillary to the regulatory sections of the Act.

The Tenth Amendment merely reserves to the States "the powers not delegated to the United States." That it is not a limitation upon the exercise of the powers which are delegated to the Federal Government is confirmed by the history of its adoption.

From *Martin v. Hunter's Lessee*, 1 Wheat. 304, 325, to *Wright v. Union Central Life Ins. Co.*, 304 U. S. 502, 516, the Court has repeatedly recognized that the Tenth Amendment adds nothing to the Constitution. A few of the relatively recent decisions of this Court suggesting a contrary view cannot be taken to have overruled *sub silentio* so important a constitutional doctrine.

The Act does not violate the Fifth Amendment.

*Mr. Archibald B. Lovett* for appellee.

The Act attempts to regulate conditions in the production of goods, and can not be sustained as a power delegated to Congress to regulate interstate commerce. The origin of the commerce clause, the nature of our constitutional system, and the course of judicial decisions prevent.

A prohibition of shipment in interstate commerce is not necessarily within the congressional power. *United States v. Butler*, 297 U. S. 1; *Hammer v. Dagenhart*, 247 U. S. 251; *Labor Board Cases*, 301 U. S. 1, *et seq.*; *Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co.*, 259 U. S. 20.

Nor is the imposition of conditions upon shipment in interstate commerce necessarily valid regulation. The subjects upon which the conditions react must be examined to determine whether the requisite relation to the needs of interstate commerce exists. If prohibition *per se* be valid, Congress could deny the channels of interstate commerce to commodities produced with labor of a certain creed or color.

A clear distinction exists between the power of Congress to prohibit interstate shipments of harmful and deleterious goods and its power to regulate shipments of useful commodities. Prohibition of shipments of harmful commodities does not infringe upon, but supplements, the powers of the other governmental units which might be affected; whereas, in the case of useful and harmless commodities the separate interests are unequally affected.

Mere similarity of commercial problems which are common to all of the States does not mean that Congress may legislate with respect to such problems. The concentration of population in urban areas and the increasing use of motor vehicles have created serious traffic problems in all of the States of the Union. But the cumulative effect of these conditions upon commerce

among the States and their prevalence throughout the country would not validate uniform regulation of traffic by Congress.

The Congressional power over intrastate commerce is limited to the regulation of intrastate activities which directly affect interstate commerce. *Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States*, 295 U. S. 495, 548; *Carter v. Carter Coal Co.*, 298 U. S. 238, 308.

Conditions in production like those involved here have always been held to affect interstate commerce only indirectly. Their control is therefore subject solely to the reserved powers of the States.

The proposition that every conceivable legislative power is conferred by § 8 of Article I of the Constitution is in direct conflict with the doctrine that the Federal Government is a government of enumerated powers. Moreover, there is no need for a finding that legislative power over every matter of concern to the people of the States and of the Nation is lodged in either the State or Federal Governments, individually or collectively, since the Tenth Amendment expressly stipulates that certain powers are reserved to the people. *Kansas v. Colorado*, 206 U. S. 46, 89-91.

Administrative expediency can not justify regulation of intrastate matters where the result is to obscure completely the boundaries of national and state power. *Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States*, 295 U. S. 495, 507-508; *Carter v. Carter Coal Co.*, 298 U. S. 238, 246, 292, *et seq.*

The doctrine which permits the regulation of intrastate transactions which are so commingled with interstate transactions that all must be regulated if the latter are to be effectively controlled, is inapplicable.

Although not required to stay its hand until actual movement in interstate commerce begins, Congress may extend its power only to those transactions occurring be-

fore the commencement of interstate movement whose relationship to interstate commerce is sufficiently close and substantial to justify congressional action.

Failure to conform to the statutory standard of minimum wages and maximum hours in such manufacturing establishments as appellee's does not in such a manner affect interstate commerce, nor constitute such an unfair method of competition, as to be subject to the regulatory power of Congress.

The Government's argument is an indirect attack upon the dual system of government established by the Constitution. *Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States*, 295 U. S. 495, 549.

The Government would solve the problem of the division of governmental powers by rendering the Federal Government dominant in all commercial and economic matters.

The power to control the conditions of production in the manner attempted by the Act is the power to impose the standard of living of one section of the country upon another, to discriminate against the industries of one section and in favor of those of another, and to equalize economic conditions by eliminating the economic advantages of more fortunate localities. If Congress may eliminate differentials in labor conditions, it may likewise eliminate other economic differentials which affect conditions in interstate commerce. *Kidd v. Pearson*, 128 U. S. 1, 21-22.

Cases cited under the Federal Trade Commission Act and under the Sherman Act are inapplicable. In those decisions the condemned practices tended to restrict competition in interstate commerce.

The fact that individual States can not adequately protect the markets which lie outside their borders for the orderly sale of their products does not vest in the national government unqualified power to regulate competition in those interstate markets.



Failure to conform to the statutory standard of minimum wages and maximum hours in such manufacturing establishments as appellee's does not lead to labor disputes which burden and obstruct commerce, nor interfere with the orderly and fair marketing of goods in commerce.

The Act deprives appellee of liberty and property without due process of law, and of the freedom of contract guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment. It is arbitrary and capricious; and is indefinite as to what persons are subject to its penal provisions.

MR. JUSTICE STONE delivered the opinion of the Court.

The two principal questions raised by the record in this case are, *first*, whether Congress has constitutional power to prohibit the shipment in interstate commerce of lumber manufactured by employees whose wages are less than a prescribed minimum or whose weekly hours of labor at that wage are greater than a prescribed maximum, and, *second*, whether it has power to prohibit the employment of workmen in the production of goods "for interstate commerce" at other than prescribed wages and hours. A subsidiary question is whether in connection with such prohibitions Congress can require the employer subject to them to keep records showing the hours worked each day and week by each of his employees including those engaged "in the production and manufacture of goods to-wit, lumber, for 'interstate commerce.'"

Appellee demurred to an indictment found in the district court for southern Georgia charging him with violation of § 15 (a) (1) (2) and (5) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; 52 Stat. 1060, 29 U. S. C. § 201, *et seq.* The district court sustained the demurrer and quashed the indictment and the case comes here on direct appeal under § 238 of the Judicial Code as amended, 28

U. S. C. § 345, and § 682, Title 18 U. S. C., 34 Stat. 1246, which authorizes an appeal to this Court when the judgment sustaining the demurrer "is based upon the invalidity or construction of the statute upon which the indictment is founded."

The Fair Labor Standards Act set up a comprehensive legislative scheme for preventing the shipment in interstate commerce of certain products and commodities produced in the United States under labor conditions as respects wages and hours which fail to conform to standards set up by the Act. Its purpose, as we judicially know from the declaration of policy in § 2 (a) of the Act,<sup>1</sup> and the reports of Congressional committees proposing the legislation, S. Rept. No. 884, 75th Cong. 1st Sess.; H. Rept. No. 1452, 75th Cong. 1st Sess.; H. Rept. No. 2182, 75th Cong. 3d Sess., Conference Report, H. Rept. No. 2738, 75th Cong. 3d Sess., is to exclude from interstate commerce goods produced for the commerce and to prevent their production for interstate commerce, under conditions detrimental to the maintenance of the minimum standards of living necessary for health and general well-being; and to prevent the use of interstate

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<sup>1</sup> Sec. 2. (a) The Congress hereby finds that the existence, in industries engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, of labor conditions detrimental to the maintenance of the minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and general well-being of workers (1) causes commerce and the channels and instrumentalities of commerce to be used to spread and perpetuate such labor conditions among the workers of the several States; (2) burdens commerce and the free flow of goods in commerce; (3) constitutes an unfair method of competition in commerce; (4) leads to labor disputes burdening and obstructing commerce and the free flow of goods in commerce; and (5) interferes with the orderly and fair marketing of goods in commerce.

Section 3 (b) defines "commerce" as "trade, commerce, transportation, transmission, or communication among the several States or from any State to any place outside thereof."

commerce as the means of competition in the distribution of goods so produced, and as the means of spreading and perpetuating such substandard labor conditions among the workers of the several states. The Act also sets up an administrative procedure whereby those standards may from time to time be modified generally as to industries subject to the Act or within an industry in accordance with specified standards, by an administrator acting in collaboration with "Industry Committees" appointed by him.

Section 15 of the statute prohibits certain specified acts and § 16 (a) punishes willful violation of it by a fine of not more than \$10,000 and punishes each conviction after the first by imprisonment of not more than six months or by the specified fine or both. Section 15 (1) makes unlawful the shipment in interstate commerce of any goods "in the production of which any employee was employed in violation of section 6 or section 7," which provide, among other things, that during the first year of operation of the Act a minimum wage of 25 cents per hour shall be paid to employees "engaged in [interstate] commerce or the production of goods for [interstate] commerce," § 6, and that the maximum hours of employment for employees "engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce" without increased compensation for overtime, shall be forty-four hours a week. § 7.

Section 15 (a) (2) makes it unlawful to violate the provisions of §§ 6 and 7 including the minimum wage and maximum hour requirements just mentioned for employees engaged in production of goods for commerce. Section 15 (a) (5) makes it unlawful for an employer subject to the Act to violate § 11 (c) which requires him to keep such records of the persons employed by him and of their wages and hours of employment as the administrator shall prescribe by regulation or order.

The indictment charges that appellee is engaged, in the State of Georgia, in the business of acquiring raw materials, which he manufactures into finished lumber with the intent, when manufactured, to ship it in interstate commerce to customers outside the state, and that he does in fact so ship a large part of the lumber so produced. There are numerous counts charging appellee with the shipment in interstate commerce from Georgia to points outside the state of lumber in the production of which, for interstate commerce, appellee has employed workmen at less than the prescribed minimum wage or more than the prescribed maximum hours without payment to them of any wage for overtime. Other counts charge the employment by appellee of workmen in the production of lumber for interstate commerce at wages at less than 25 cents an hour or for more than the maximum hours per week without payment to them of the prescribed overtime wage. Still another count charges appellee with failure to keep records showing the hours worked each day a week by each of his employees as required by § 11 (c) and the regulation of the administrator, Title 29, Ch. 5, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 516, and also that appellee unlawfully failed to keep such records of employees engaged "in the production and manufacture of goods, to-wit lumber, for interstate commerce."

The demurrer, so far as now relevant to the appeal, challenged the validity of the Fair Labor Standards Act under the Commerce Clause and the Fifth and Tenth Amendments. The district court quashed the indictment in its entirety upon the broad grounds that the Act, which it interpreted as a regulation of manufacture within the states, is unconstitutional. It declared that manufacture is not interstate commerce and that the regulation by the Fair Labor Standards Act of wages and hours of employment of those engaged in the manufac-

ture of goods which it is intended at the time of production "may or will be" after production "sold in interstate commerce in part or in whole" is not within the congressional power to regulate interstate commerce.

The effect of the court's decision and judgment is thus to deny the power of Congress to prohibit shipment in interstate commerce of lumber produced for interstate commerce under the proscribed substandard labor conditions of wages and hours, its power to penalize the employer for his failure to conform to the wage and hour provisions in the case of employees engaged in the production of lumber which he intends thereafter to ship in interstate commerce in part or in whole according to the normal course of his business and its power to compel him to keep records of hours of employment as required by the statute and the regulations of the administrator.

The case comes here on assignments by the Government that the district court erred insofar as it held that Congress was without constitutional power to penalize the acts set forth in the indictment, and appellee seeks to sustain the decision below on the grounds that the prohibition by Congress of those Acts is unauthorized by the Commerce Clause and is prohibited by the Fifth Amendment. The appeal statute limits our jurisdiction on this appeal to a review of the determination of the district court so far only as it is based on the validity or construction of the statute. *United States v. Borden Co.*, 308 U. S. 188, 193-195, and cases cited. Hence we accept the district court's interpretation of the indictment and confine our decision to the validity and construction of the statute.

*The prohibition of shipment of the proscribed goods in interstate commerce.* Section 15 (a) (1) prohibits, and the indictment charges, the shipment in interstate commerce, of goods produced for interstate commerce by employees whose wages and hours of employment do not

conform to the requirements of the Act. Since this section is not violated unless the commodity shipped has been produced under labor conditions prohibited by § 6 and § 7, the only question arising under the commerce clause with respect to such shipments is whether Congress has the constitutional power to prohibit them.

While manufacture is not of itself interstate commerce, the shipment of manufactured goods interstate is such commerce and the prohibition of such shipment by Congress is indubitably a regulation of the commerce. The power to regulate commerce is the power "to prescribe the rule by which commerce is governed." *Gibbons v. Ogden*, 9 Wheat. 1, 196. It extends not only to those regulations which aid, foster and protect the commerce, but embraces those which prohibit it. *Reid v. Colorado*, 187 U. S. 137; *Lottery Case*, 188 U. S. 321; *United States v. Delaware & Hudson Co.*, 213 U. S. 366; *Hoke v. United States*, 227 U. S. 308; *Clark Distilling Co. v. Western Maryland Ry. Co.*, 242 U. S. 311; *United States v. Hill*, 248 U. S. 420; *McCormick & Co. v. Brown*, 286 U. S. 131. It is conceded that the power of Congress to prohibit transportation in interstate commerce includes noxious articles, *Lottery Case*, *supra*; *Hipolite Egg Co. v. United States*, 220 U. S. 45; cf. *Hoke v. United States*, *supra*; stolen articles, *Brooks v. United States*, 267 U. S. 432; kidnapped persons, *Gooch v. United States*, 297 U. S. 124, and articles such as intoxicating liquor or convict made goods, traffic in which is forbidden or restricted by the laws of the state of destination. *Kentucky Whip & Collar Co. v. Illinois Central R. Co.*, 299 U. S. 334.

But it is said that the present prohibition falls within the scope of none of these categories; that while the prohibition is nominally a regulation of the commerce its motive or purpose is regulation of wages and hours of persons engaged in manufacture, the control of which has been reserved to the states and upon which Georgia

and some of the states of destination have placed no restriction; that the effect of the present statute is not to exclude the proscribed articles from interstate commerce in aid of state regulation as in *Kentucky Whip & Collar Co. v. Illinois Central R. Co.*, *supra*, but instead, under the guise of a regulation of interstate commerce, it undertakes to regulate wages and hours within the state contrary to the policy of the state which has elected to leave them unregulated.

The power of Congress over interstate commerce "is complete in itself, may be exercised to its utmost extent, and acknowledges no limitations other than are prescribed in the Constitution." *Gibbons v. Ogden*, *supra*, 196. That power can neither be enlarged nor diminished by the exercise or non-exercise of state power. *Kentucky Whip & Collar Co. v. Illinois Central R. Co.*, *supra*. Congress, following its own conception of public policy concerning the restrictions which may appropriately be imposed on interstate commerce, is free to exclude from the commerce articles whose use in the states for which they are destined it may conceive to be injurious to the public health, morals or welfare, even though the state has not sought to regulate their use. *Reid v. Colorado*, *supra*; *Lottery Case*, *supra*; *Hipolite Egg Co. v. United States*, *supra*; *Hoke v. United States*, *supra*.

Such regulation is not a forbidden invasion of state power merely because either its motive or its consequence is to restrict the use of articles of commerce within the states of destination; and is not prohibited unless by other Constitutional provisions. It is no objection to the assertion of the power to regulate interstate commerce that its exercise is attended by the same incidents which attend the exercise of the police power of the states. *Seven Cases v. United States*, 239 U. S. 510, 514; *Hamilton v. Kentucky Distilleries & Warehouse Co.*, 251 U. S. 146, 156; *United States v. Carolene Products Co.*, 304 U. S.

144, 147; *United States v. Appalachian Electric Power Co.*, 311 U. S. 377.

The motive and purpose of the present regulation are plainly to make effective the Congressional conception of public policy that interstate commerce should not be made the instrument of competition in the distribution of goods produced under substandard labor conditions, which competition is injurious to the commerce and to the states from and to which the commerce flows. The motive and purpose of a regulation of interstate commerce are matters for the legislative judgment upon the exercise of which the Constitution places no restriction and over which the courts are given no control. *McCray v. United States*, 195 U. S. 27; *Sonzinsky v. United States*, 300 U. S. 506, 513 and cases cited. "The judicial cannot prescribe to the legislative department of the government limitations upon the exercise of its acknowledged power." *Veazie Bank v. Fenno*, 8 Wall. 533. Whatever their motive and purpose, regulations of commerce which do not infringe some constitutional prohibition are within the plenary power conferred on Congress by the Commerce Clause. Subject only to that limitation, presently to be considered, we conclude that the prohibition of the shipment interstate of goods produced under the forbidden substandard labor conditions is within the constitutional authority of Congress.

In the more than a century which has elapsed since the decision of *Gibbons v. Ogden*, these principles of constitutional interpretation have been so long and repeatedly recognized by this Court as applicable to the Commerce Clause, that there would be little occasion for repeating them now were it not for the decision of this Court twenty-two years ago in *Hammer v. Dagenhart*, 247 U. S. 251. In that case it was held by a bare majority of the Court over the powerful and now classic dissent of Mr. Justice Holmes setting forth the fundamental issues involved,



that Congress was without power to exclude the products of child labor from interstate commerce. The reasoning and conclusion of the Court's opinion there cannot be reconciled with the conclusion which we have reached, that the power of Congress under the Commerce Clause is plenary to exclude any article from interstate commerce subject only to the specific prohibitions of the Constitution.

*Hammer v. Dagenhart* has not been followed. The distinction on which the decision was rested that Congressional power to prohibit interstate commerce is limited to articles which in themselves have some harmful or deleterious property—a distinction which was novel when made and unsupported by any provision of the Constitution—has long since been abandoned. *Brooks v. United States*, *supra*; *Kentucky Whip & Collar Co. v. Illinois Central R. Co.*, *supra*; *Electric Bond & Share Co. v. Securities & Exchange Comm'n*, 303 U. S. 419; *Mulford v. Smith*, 307 U. S. 38. The thesis of the opinion that the motive of the prohibition or its effect to control in some measure the use or production within the states of the article thus excluded from the commerce can operate to deprive the regulation of its constitutional authority has long since ceased to have force. *Reid v. Colorado*, *supra*; *Lottery Case*, *supra*; *Hipolite Egg Co. v. United States*, *supra*; *Seven Cases v. United States*, *supra*, 514; *Hamilton v. Kentucky Distilleries & Warehouse Co.*, *supra*, 156; *United States v. Carolene Products Co.*, *supra*, 147. And finally we have declared "The authority of the federal government over interstate commerce does not differ in extent or character from that retained by the states over intrastate commerce." *United States v. Rock Royal Co-operative*, 307 U. S. 533, 569.

The conclusion is inescapable that *Hammer v. Dagenhart*, was a departure from the principles which have prevailed in the interpretation of the Commerce Clause both

before and since the decision and that such vitality, as a precedent, as it then had has long since been exhausted. It should be and now is overruled.

*Validity of the wage and hour requirements.* Section 15 (a) (2) and §§ 6 and 7 require employers to conform to the wage and hour provisions with respect to all employees engaged in the production of goods for interstate commerce. As appellee's employees are not alleged to be "engaged in interstate commerce" the validity of the prohibition turns on the question whether the employment, under other than the prescribed labor standards, of employees engaged in the production of goods for interstate commerce is so related to the commerce and so affects it as to be within the reach of the power of Congress to regulate it.

To answer this question we must at the outset determine whether the particular acts charged in the counts which are laid under § 15 (a) (2) as they were construed below, constitute "production for commerce" within the meaning of the statute. As the Government seeks to apply the statute in the indictment, and as the court below construed the phrase "produced for interstate commerce," it embraces at least the case where an employer engaged, as is appellee, in the manufacture and shipment of goods in filling orders of extrastate customers, manufactures his product with the intent or expectation that according to the normal course of his business all or some part of it will be selected for shipment to those customers.

Without attempting to define the precise limits of the phrase, we think the acts alleged in the indictment are within the sweep of the statute. The obvious purpose of the Act was not only to prevent the interstate transportation of the proscribed product, but to stop the initial step toward transportation, production with the purpose of so transporting it. Congress was not unaware that

most manufacturing businesses shipping their product in interstate commerce make it in their shops without reference to its ultimate destination and then after manufacture select some of it for shipment interstate and some intrastate according to the daily demands of their business, and that it would be practically impossible, without disrupting manufacturing businesses, to restrict the prohibited kind of production to the particular pieces of lumber, cloth, furniture or the like which later move in interstate rather than intrastate commerce. Cf. *United States v. New York Central R. Co.*, 272 U. S. 457, 464.

The recognized need of drafting a workable statute and the well known circumstances in which it was to be applied are persuasive of the conclusion, which the legislative history supports, S. Rept. No. 884, 75th Cong. 1st Sess., pp. 7 and 8; H. Rept. No. 2738, 75th Cong. 3d Sess., p. 17, that the "production for commerce" intended includes at least production of goods, which, at the time of production, the employer, according to the normal course of his business, intends or expects to move in interstate commerce although, through the exigencies of the business, all of the goods may not thereafter actually enter interstate commerce.<sup>2</sup>

There remains the question whether such restriction on the production of goods for commerce is a permissible exercise of the commerce power. The power of Congress over interstate commerce is not confined to the regulation of commerce among the states. It extends to those activities intrastate which so affect interstate commerce or the exercise of the power of Congress over it as to make regulation of them appropriate means to the attainment of a legitimate end, the exercise of the granted power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce. See *McCul-*

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<sup>2</sup> Cf. Administrator's Opinion, Interpretative Bulletin No. 5, 1940 Wage and Hour Manual, p. 131 *et seq.*

*loch v. Maryland*, 4 Wheat. 316, 421. Cf. *United States v. Ferger*, 250 U. S. 199.

While this Court has many times found state regulation of interstate commerce, when uniformity of its regulation is of national concern, to be incompatible with the Commerce Clause even though Congress has not legislated on the subject, the Court has never implied such restraint on state control over matters intrastate not deemed to be regulations of interstate commerce or its instrumentalities even though they affect the commerce. *Minnesota Rate Cases*, 230 U. S. 352, 398 *et seq.*, and case cited; 410 *et seq.*, and cases cited. In the absence of Congressional legislation on the subject state laws which are not regulations of the commerce itself or its instrumentalities are not forbidden even though they affect interstate commerce. *Kidd v. Pearson*, 128 U. S. 1; *Bacon v. Illinois*, 227 U. S. 504; *Heisler v. Thomas Colliery Co.*, 260 U. S. 245; *Oliver Iron Co. v. Lord*, 262 U. S. 172.

But it does not follow that Congress may not by appropriate legislation regulate intrastate activities where they have a substantial effect on interstate commerce. See *Santa Cruz Fruit Packing Co. v. National Labor Relations Board*, 303 U. S. 453, 466. A recent example is the National Labor Relations Act for the regulation of employer and employee relations in industries in which strikes, induced by unfair labor practices named in the Act, tend to disturb or obstruct interstate commerce. See *National Labor Relations Board v. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp.*, 301 U. S. 1, 38, 40; *National Labor Relations Board v. Fainblatt*, 306 U. S. 601, 604, and cases cited. But long before the adoption of the National Labor Relations Act this Court had many times held that the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce extends to the regulation through legislative action of activities in-

trastate which have a substantial effect on the commerce or the exercise of the Congressional power over it.<sup>3</sup>

In such legislation Congress has sometimes left it to the courts to determine whether the intrastate activities have the prohibited effect on the commerce, as in the Sherman Act. It has sometimes left it to an administrative board or agency to determine whether the activities sought to be regulated or prohibited have such effect, as in the case of the Interstate Commerce Act, and the National Labor Relations Act, or whether they come within the statutory definition of the prohibited Act, as in the Federal Trade Commission Act. And sometimes Congress itself has said that a particular activity affects the commerce, as it did in the present Act, the Safety Appliance Act and the Railway Labor Act. In passing on the validity of legislation of the class last mentioned the only function of courts is to determine whether the particular activity regulated or prohibited is within the reach

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<sup>3</sup> It may prohibit wholly intrastate activities which, if permitted, would result in restraint of interstate commerce. *Coronado Coal Co. v. United Mine Workers*, 268 U. S. 295, 310; *Local 167 v. United States*, 291 U. S. 293, 297. It may regulate the activities of a local grain exchange shown to have an injurious effect on interstate commerce. *Chicago Board of Trade v. Olsen*, 262 U. S. 1. It may regulate intrastate rates of interstate carriers where the effect of the rates is to burden interstate commerce. *Houston, E. & W. Texas Ry. Co. v. United States*, 234 U. S. 342; *Railroad Commission of Wisconsin v. Chicago, B. & Q. R. Co.*, 257 U. S. 563; *United States v. Louisiana*, 290 U. S. 70, 74; *Florida v. United States*, 292 U. S. 1. It may compel the adoption of safety appliances on rolling stock moving intrastate because of the relation to and effect of such appliances upon interstate traffic moving over the same railroad. *Southern Ry. Co. v. United States*, 222 U. S. 20. It may prescribe maximum hours for employees engaged in intrastate activity connected with the movement of any train, such as train dispatchers and telegraphers. *Baltimore & Ohio R. Co. v. Interstate Commerce Comm'n*, 221 U. S. 612, 619.

of the federal power. See *United States v. Ferger, supra*; *Virginian Ry. Co. v. Federation*, 300 U. S. 515, 553.

Congress, having by the present Act adopted the policy of excluding from interstate commerce all goods produced for the commerce which do not conform to the specified labor standards, it may choose the means reasonably adapted to the attainment of the permitted end, even though they involve control of intrastate activities. Such legislation has often been sustained with respect to powers, other than the commerce power granted to the national government, when the means chosen, although not themselves within the granted power, were nevertheless deemed appropriate aids to the accomplishment of some purpose within an admitted power of the national government. See *Jacob Ruppert, Inc. v. Caffey*, 251 U. S. 264; *Everard's Breweries v. Day*, 265 U. S. 545, 560; *Westfall v. United States*, 274 U. S. 256, 259. As to state power under the Fourteenth Amendment, compare *Otis v. Parker*, 187 U. S. 606, 609; *St. John v. New York*, 201 U. S. 633; *Purity Extract & Tonic Co. v. Lynch*, 226 U. S. 192, 201-202. A familiar like exercise of power is the regulation of intrastate transactions which are so commingled with or related to interstate commerce that all must be regulated if the interstate commerce is to be effectively controlled. *Shreveport Case*, 234 U. S. 342; *Railroad Commission of Wisconsin v. Chicago, B. & Q. R. Co.*, 257 U. S. 563; *United States v. New York Central R. Co.*, *supra*, 464; *Currin v. Wallace*, 306 U. S. 1; *Mulford v. Smith, supra*. Similarly Congress may require inspection and preventive treatment of all cattle in a disease infected area in order to prevent shipment in interstate commerce of some of the cattle without the treatment. *Thornton v. United States*, 271 U. S. 414. It may prohibit the removal, at destination, of labels required by the Pure Food & Drugs Act to be affixed to ar-

ticles transported in interstate commerce. *McDermott v. Wisconsin*, 228 U. S. 115. And we have recently held that Congress in the exercise of its power to require inspection and grading of tobacco shipped in interstate commerce may compel such inspection and grading of all tobacco sold at local auction rooms from which a substantial part but not all of the tobacco sold is shipped in interstate commerce. *Currin v. Wallace*, *supra*, 11, and see to the like effect *United States v. Rock Royal Co-op.*, *supra*, 568, note 37.

We think also that § 15 (a) (2), now under consideration, is sustainable independently of § 15 (a) (1), which prohibits shipment or transportation of the proscribed goods. As we have said the evils aimed at by the Act are the spread of substandard labor conditions through the use of the facilities of interstate commerce for competition by the goods so produced with those produced under the prescribed or better labor conditions; and the consequent dislocation of the commerce itself caused by the impairment or destruction of local businesses by competition made effective through interstate commerce. The Act is thus directed at the suppression of a method or kind of competition in interstate commerce which it has in effect condemned as "unfair," as the Clayton Act has condemned other "unfair methods of competition" made effective through interstate commerce. See *Van Camp & Sons Co. v. American Can Co.*, 278 U. S. 245; *Federal Trade Comm'n v. Keppel & Bro.*, 291 U. S. 304.

The Sherman Act and the National Labor Relations Act are familiar examples of the exertion of the commerce power to prohibit or control activities wholly intrastate because of their effect on interstate commerce. See as to the Sherman Act, *Northern Securities Co. v. United States*, 193 U. S. 197; *Swift & Co. v. United States*, 196 U. S. 375; *United States v. Patten*, 226 U. S. 525; *United Mine Workers v. Coronado Coal Co.*, 259 U. S. 344; *Local*

*No. 167 v. United States*, 291 U. S. 293; *Stevens Co. v. Foster & Kleiser Co.*, 311 U. S. 255. As to the National Labor Relations Act, see *National Labor Relations Board v. Fainblatt*, *supra*, and cases cited.

The means adopted by § 15 (a) (2) for the protection of interstate commerce by the suppression of the production of the condemned goods for interstate commerce is so related to the commerce and so affects it as to be within the reach of the commerce power. See *Currin v. Wallace*, *supra*, 11. Congress, to attain its objective in the suppression of nationwide competition in interstate commerce by goods produced under substandard labor conditions, has made no distinction as to the volume or amount of shipments in the commerce or of production for commerce by any particular shipper or producer. It recognized that in present day industry, competition by a small part may affect the whole and that the total effect of the competition of many small producers may be great. See H. Rept. No. 2182, 75th Cong. 1st Sess., p. 7. The legislation aimed at a whole embraces all its parts. Cf. *National Labor Relations Board v. Fainblatt*, *supra*, 606.

So far as *Carter v. Carter Coal Co.*, 298 U. S. 238, is inconsistent with this conclusion, its doctrine is limited in principle by the decisions under the Sherman Act and the National Labor Relations Act, which we have cited and which we follow. See also *Sunshine Anthracite Coal Co. v. Adkins*, 310 U. S. 381; *Currin v. Wallace*, *supra*; *Mulford v. Smith*, *supra*; *United States v. Rock Royal Co-op.*, *supra*; *Clover Fork Coal Co. v. National Labor Relations Board*, 97 F. 2d 331; *National Labor Relations Board v. Crowe Coal Co.*, 104 F. 2d 633; *National Labor Relations Board v. Good Coal Co.*, 110 F. 2d 501.

Our conclusion is unaffected by the Tenth Amendment which provides: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the



States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." The amendment states but a truism that all is retained which has not been surrendered. There is nothing in the history of its adoption to suggest that it was more than declaratory of the relationship between the national and state governments as it had been established by the Constitution before the amendment or that its purpose was other than to allay fears that the new national government might seek to exercise powers not granted, and that the states might not be able to exercise fully their reserved powers. See e. g., II Elliot's Debates, 123, 131; III *id.* 450, 464, 600; IV *id.* 140, 149; I Annals of Congress, 432, 761, 767-768; Story, Commentaries on the Constitution, §§ 1907-1908.

From the beginning and for many years the amendment has been construed as not depriving the national government of authority to resort to all means for the exercise of a granted power which are appropriate and plainly adapted to the permitted end. *Martin v. Hunter's Lessee*, 1 Wheat. 304, 324, 325; *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *supra*, 405, 406; *Gordon v. United States*, 117 U. S. 697, 705; *Lottery Case*, *supra*; *Northern Securities Co. v. United States*, *supra*, 344-345; *Everard's Breweries v. Day*, *supra*, 558; *United States v. Sprague*, 282 U. S. 716, 733; see *United States v. The Brigantine William*, 28 Fed. Cas. No. 16,700, p. 622. Whatever doubts may have arisen of the soundness of that conclusion, they have been put at rest by the decisions under the Sherman Act and the National Labor Relations Act which we have cited. See also, *Ashwander v. Tennessee Valley Authority*, 297 U. S. 288, 330-331; *Wright v. Union Central Ins. Co.*, 304 U. S. 502, 516.

*Validity of the requirement of records of wages and hours.* § 15 (a) (5) and § 11 (c). These requirements are incidental to those for the prescribed wages and

hours, and hence validity of the former turns on validity of the latter. Since, as we have held, Congress may require production for interstate commerce to conform to those conditions, it may require the employer, as a means of enforcing the valid law, to keep a record showing whether he has in fact complied with it. The requirement for records even of the intrastate transaction is an appropriate means to the legitimate end. See *Baltimore & Ohio R. Co. v. Interstate Commerce Comm'n*, 221 U. S. 612; *Interstate Commerce Comm'n v. Goodrich Transit Co.*, 224 U. S. 194; *Chicago Board of Trade v. Olsen*, 262 U. S. 1, 42.

*Validity of the wage and hour provisions under the Fifth Amendment.* Both provisions are minimum wage requirements compelling the payment of a minimum standard wage with a prescribed increased wage for overtime of "not less than one and one-half times the regular rate" at which the worker is employed. Since our decision in *West Coast Hotel Co. v. Parrish*, 300 U. S. 379, it is no longer open to question that the fixing of a minimum wage is within the legislative power and that the bare fact of its exercise is not a denial of due process under the Fifth more than under the Fourteenth Amendment. Nor is it any longer open to question that it is within the legislative power to fix maximum hours. *Holden v. Hardy*, 169 U. S. 366; *Muller v. Oregon*, 208 U. S. 412; *Bunting v. Oregon*, 243 U. S. 426; *Baltimore & Ohio R. Co. v. Interstate Commerce Comm'n*, *supra*. Similarly the statute is not objectionable because applied alike to both men and women. Cf. *Bunting v. Oregon*, 243 U. S. 426.

The Act is sufficiently definite to meet constitutional demands. One who employs persons, without conforming to the prescribed wage and hour conditions, to work on goods which he ships or expects to ship across state

lines, is warned that he may be subject to the criminal penalties of the Act. No more is required. *Nash v. United States*, 229 U. S. 373, 377.

We have considered, but find it unnecessary to discuss other contentions.

*Reversed.*

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OPP COTTON MILLS, INC., ET AL. *v.* ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

CERTIORARI TO THE CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT.

No. 330. Argued December 20, 1940.—Decided February 3, 1941.

1. Wage and hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as applied to manufacturers of textile goods for interstate commerce, held within the commerce power and consistent with the Fifth and Tenth Amendments. *United States v. Darby*, ante, p. 100. P. 142.
2. In the exertion of its legislative powers, Congress may provide that administrative findings of fact, made in conformity to previously adopted legislative standards and definitions of Congressional policy, shall be prerequisite to the operation of its statutory command. P. 144.

The adoption of the declared policy by Congress and its definition of the circumstances in which its command is to be effective, constitute the performance, in the constitutional sense, of the legislative function.

3. Where the standards set up for the guidance of the administrative agency, the procedure which it is directed to follow, and the record of its action which is required by the statute to be kept, or which is in fact preserved, are such that Congress, the courts and the public can ascertain whether the agency has conformed to the standards which Congress has prescribed, there is no failure of performance of the legislative function. P. 144.
4. The Fair Labor Standards Act, to the extent that it authorizes the Administrator and the industry committees appointed by him to classify industries and fix minimum wages, is not an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power. Pp. 142, 145.